

**Board of Supervisors**

Gloria Molina, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
 Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
 Zev Yaroslavsky, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
 Don Knabe, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
 Michael D. Antonovich, 5<sup>th</sup> District

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS

3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 400  
 Los Angeles, CA 90010  
 (213) 351-5274 FAX (213) 365-8649

[www.css.lacounty.gov](http://www.css.lacounty.gov)

**Executive Board**

Bernard Weintraub, President  
 Aida M. Villalobos, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
 Peter J. McGrath, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
 David Siegrist, Secretary  
 Barbara Sinclair, Fiscal Officer

Brenda Sapp-Pradia  
 Executive Liaison

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS

### MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Monday, April 04, 2011

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

3175 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, (Board) Collaboration Room  
 Los Angeles, CA 90020

### COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Mary Helen Cruz	Frank P. Calderon	Krishan Bhalla	Aziz Amiri	Natalie Ambrose
Gloria Duran	Matty Fegan-Perry	Sol Fingold	Irene Griffith	Bianca Langley
William Givens	Zelda Hutcherson	Marilyn Fried	William Ha	Peter McGrath
Samuel Park	William Jackson	Peter Getzoff	Raymond Hall	Arlene Okamoto
David Siegrist	Theresa Rotter	Oleeta Igar	Hedy L. Harrison	Marvin Schachter
	Lavada Theus	Barbara Meltzer	Jung J. Kim	Barbara Sinclair
	Aida M. Villalobos	Bernard Weintraub	James Polk	Liz Wong
		Elizabeth Wilson		Vicente Zapata

### COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED ABSENCE

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
	Eleanor Brown	Maurice Weiner	Ralph Flores	Nneenah Frazier
	Lonnie McNamee		Cindy Skovgard	
	Nate Riddick			

**CSS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Lorenza C. Sánchez, Assistant Director; Brenda Sapp-Pradia, Program Manager, Larry Littleton, Human Services Administrator I; Vera Castillo, Legislative Analyst, and Guillermo Medina, Staff Assistant II.

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Weintraub called the LACCOA Meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. Sergeant-at-Arms Officer Lavada Theus reminded the commission to be respectful and courteous to one another, and to keep comments to 3 minutes.

### 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Natalie Ambrose led the pledge of allegiance.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday, April 04, 2011**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Weintraub entertained a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Barbara Sinclair moved the motion and Vice-President Aida Villalobos seconded the motion with the following corrections: Commissioner William Jackson stated that in Item 10.1.1 in Committee Reports, the statement should be read as 'draft bylaws will be ready for review'; and Commissioner Barbara Meltzer stated Item 10.2.2 should be read as 'the text of the LACCOA brochure has been completed'. Commission accepted to file the March 07, 2011 LACCOA General Meeting minutes as presented with these corrections.

**5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Weintraub stated that one of the biggest concerns for LACCOA in the last month is the funding source for the upcoming Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) event. He reported that he had met with CSS staff and that CSS staff stated that the department does not have sufficient funds to fund this year's OARD event. CSS is requesting that LACCOA fund this year's event. President Weintraub decided, after much thought, that the commission as a whole should decide and vote on the issue whether or not funding for the OARD event should come out of the LACCOA budget. He stated he would agree to use the funds from the LACCOA budget for the event only if this is a one-time only request and for the event not be held at the Cathedral Church, but preferably at the Dorothy Chandler in the Music Center. He also stated that if the commission does agree to fund the event, that it does not exceed \$15,000.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Larry Littleton reported on the following:

- The outside parking lots next to the CSS building are reserved. Visitors should park in the parking structure.
- The new LACCOA membership application has been approved by the Executive Board and is ready to be distributed to applicants.
- Mr. Littleton distributed two documents regarding upcoming conferences. The first document is for the current fiscal year. The second document is for the next fiscal year, 2011-12. He requested that all commissioners notify CSS staff if they are aware of any other events.
- The LACCOA roster will be distributed to the commission and will have each commissioner's name, home address, telephone number and email address. This information is for personal use only and should not be shared with others without the consent of the commissioners involved. He stressed that the information should be kept confidential.
- CSS Human Resources will be in the Snack N' Chat room from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. distributing the new ID badges. During discussion, Commissioner Barbara Sinclair indicated that certain commissioners still have to sign in when entering the parking structure. CSS staff will work on ensuring that all commissioners obtain a parking tag.

**7. FINANCE REPORT**

Financial Officer, Barbara Sinclair, reported that she met with Patina, the catering company that provides service to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in the Music Center. She stated that she

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday, April 04, 2011**

negotiated with them on the price in order to have the OARD Event at the Music Center. One option is to have a Caesar salad with grilled chicken and dessert with tea and coffee. Ms. Sinclair is requesting that CSS staff request an item on the Board of Supervisors' agenda requesting a waiver for rental of the Music Center, ushers, and parking fees which she states will save \$1,300. She stated that after reviewing the current LACCOA expenditure report, she felt that the cost for the OARD event for this year can come from the LACCOA budget.

Lorenza C. Sánchez, Assistant Director, stated that due to the current budget constraints, CSS can't afford to pay for the OARD event and requested a LACCOA vote to approve the funds to pay for the OARD event. She stated that OARD is an annual event and last year it was held at the Music Center. She also stated that district 4 will be having their own event on a different date and location.

Ms. Sinclair said she was told by CSS that they were not in compliance with County policy the last two years because the department didn't obtain three competitive bids for the OARD event. She said that for this year's event, CSS staff received three bids and the most competitive bid was from the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels Church. Ms. Sinclair stated that several commissioners expressed their displeasure of having the event at a secular location. She stated that her initial estimate for the event at the Music Center will be around \$13,000

During discussion, Commissioner James Polk expressed his opinion that religion should not be a part of the decision-making process for the location of the event. Commissioner Marvin Schachter suggested forming a budget committee to examine the current budget and how it can best benefit the commission for the next fiscal year.

During the discussion, Commissioner William Jackson stated that he has attended several County events in the past that have been held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels Church which were not inside the sanctuary. The events were held at a different building and that the decision of having events there should be based on the costs. Commissioner Irene Griffith asked if the Board of Supervisors can fund the OARD event. Commissioner Vicente Zapata stated that if the commission has sufficient funds in their budget, that they should fund it for this year.

MOTION: Commissioner Marilyn Fried suggested the motion of having LACCOA fund the OARD event for 2011, that it will not exceed \$15,000, and that this will only be for this year. Commissioner Peter McGrath so moved the motion and Commissioner James Polk seconded the motion. The motion was passed with the vote of thirty-one yes, three no, and one abstention.

Ms. Sánchez stated that there is still a lot of work ahead before the OARD event. She stated that the Music Center had been reserved for Monday, May 23, 2011. Ms. Sánchez also thanked the commission for their assistance in having this event.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Peter McGrath, thanked President Weintraub, Financial Officer Barbara Sinclair, and CSS staff for allowing the commission to negotiate and come up with a compromise for the OARD Event.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday, April 04, 2011**

President Weintraub reminded CSS staff that the commission expects CSS to cover any costs that exceed \$15,000 for the event.

Commissioner David Siegrist suggested that the commission write a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting the Supervisors to fund the OARD event through their discretionary funds.

**8. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Vera Castillo, Legislative Analyst, distributed a handout that describes the competency level for senior caretakers. Ms. Castillo stated that she sent, by e-mail, a copy of a letter requested by State Senator Mark Leno to the commission. The letter was requesting that the State Legislative Analyst office submit options in case the state budget extension plans do not pass. Some of the programs and actions proposed are the elimination of the Department of Aging and transferring some of the programs to the Department of Social Services. Another option is to eliminate the Adult Protective Services program.

Ms. Castillo stated that the federal budget has no long-term budget in place. The House of Representatives will be announcing the federal spending for FY 2012 which will include cuts to the Medicare program,

Ms. Castillo also stated that the State budget still remains unresolved. The major issue that still remains is how to close the budget gap.

Ms. Castillo announced that there is a provision in the Healthcare Reform Act known as the Class Act in which individuals will be able to pay into a self-funded insurance program through their own payroll and it will be vested in five years. This money will be used for their long-term care. The Secretary of the Health and Human Services Administration is developing the implementation plan for the fall of 2011. Another provision is the Community First Options that will allow States to obtain more funding for providing home and community-based care to eligible individuals.

Commissioner Marvin Schachter recommended that the commission develop a discussion program to discuss the proposed cuts in services to senior programs at all levels of the government.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Aida Villalobos, introduced the chairperson of each Ad-Hoc Committee to give a brief update. Ms. Villalobos requested that the members of the Awards and Annual Installation Ad Hoc committee meet in the following week. The Policy and Procedures Ad Hoc will be scheduled to meet in May 2011.

**9.1.1 Nomination**

Commissioner Gloria Duran stated that the Nominating Committee has received the following nominations:

President: Aida Villalobos and Bernie Weintraub

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday, April 04, 2011**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Cindy Skovgard  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Peter McGrath  
Secretary: David Siegrist  
Fiscal Officer: Barbara Sinclair

Commissioner Duran announced that the Nominating Committee will be accepting nominations until April 15, 2011. This date was set to have enough time to develop a ballot. The elections will be held at the next LACCOA General meeting, scheduled for May 2, 2011. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at that time. Commissioner Duran reminded the commission to make sure any possible candidates are willing to run for office before nominating them.

President Weintraub encouraged all commissioners to consider running for an office.

9.1.2 Bylaws Ad-Hoc

Commissioner William Jackson reported that the draft bylaws have been mailed to all the commissioners for review. The commission will vote on the bylaws at the June LACCOA meeting.

9.1.3 Needs Assessment

Commissioner Marilyn Fried reported that the Needs Assessment is going to consist of five focus groups, one for each supervisorial district. CSS is looking for a company that can conduct these focus groups, analyze the results and write a report that can be used as the basis for the new Area Plan. Commissioner Fried stated that the focus groups should include people from the baby boomer generation, veterans and care-givers to ensure that their needs are addressed in the Area Plan. Commissioner Fried also stated that the funding for these activities will be provided by CSS.

During discussion, Commissioner Natalie Ambrose expressed her concern that not all senior needs in the Antelope Valley will be addressed in the focus groups. Commissioner James Polk stated that commissioners should be involved in the focus groups with proper training. He stated that when the District 4 commissioners met with Supervisor Knabe, he mentioned a training that could be provided.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Peter McGrath, requested that the Committee Chairs give their Standing Committee Reports and reminded them to keep their reports to three minutes.

9.2.1 Area Plan Committee

Chair, Marilyn Fried, reported that the Committee met prior to the general meeting. She reported that the committee looked into lessons learned from the public hearings and recommendations for the future. A handout from Adult Protective Services regarding Elder Abuse Prevention and Community Outreach was handed out to the commission. The handout included a schedule of upcoming events. Commissioner Fried encouraged the commission to share the calendar dates with the community.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday, April 04, 2011**

9.2.2 Communications Committee

Chair, Barbara Meltzer, reported that the LACCOA brochure is not complete yet. She reported that the Speakers' Bureau video has been put on hold because the production team is working on another priority project. No requests have been sent out for potential talent to host the video. Commissioner Meltzer is requesting information from the committee chairs for their respective committees for the new LACCOA newsletter and Annual Report. She is also requesting commissioners to submit any events, accomplishments, or information that can be shared in the newsletter. Commissioner Meltzer indicated that she was interested in working with Commissioner Marvin Schachter to develop talking points that commissioners could use when they go out to speak in their communities.

9.2.3 Health, Nutrition and Long-Term Care Committee

Chair, Irene Griffith, announced that Sue Kennedy, CSS Nutritionist, will be attending the committee meeting following the general meeting to discuss the implementation of low-sodium meals in the senior centers. Commissioner Griffith invited all commissioners to attend.

9.2.4 Housing and Transportation Committee

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Aida Villalobos, stated that with the current economic state, there will be an increase in homelessness. Commissioner Villalobos stated that Commissioner Lavada Theus will be visiting the office of Supervisorial District 2 to obtain information on homelessness. She is also requesting commissioners to try to obtain information on housing that can also be shared with the commission and the community. She announced that the committee will be visiting the Wilmington Senior Center to share information regarding housing and transportation. The committee will also be visiting a homeless shelter, but the location has not been determined. Commissioner Villalobos also stated that the committee is still looking into having a housing and transportation fair at the end of 2011.

Commissioner Mary Helen Cruz announced that the next 'Seniors on the Move' workshop will be held on June 23, 2011 at the Casa Maravilla Senior Center.

9.2.5 Legislative and Advocacy Committee

Chair, Sol Fingold, stated that the next meeting is scheduled immediately following the general meeting. Commissioner Fingold also stated that the committee is looking into proposed bills in the state legislature that affect seniors. He also stated that the CBS show '60 Minutes' which aired on April 3, 2011 should be seen by all. The report pertained to fraud that occurred during the housing boom.

President Weintraub requested an update on the resolution letter that was written by Commissioner Schachter. Guillermo Medina, CSS staff, stated that he sent an e-mail to the committee and President Weintraub reminding the commissioners that the letter was not finalized. Commissioner Schachter stated that the letter will be finalized at the next committee meeting.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday, April 04, 2011**

9.2.6 Membership Committee

Co-chair, Hedy Harrison, stated that the membership application has been adopted and is ready for distribution to potential candidates. Commissioner Harrison requested that CSS staff mail out the application to three potential candidates. Ms. Harrison stated that the committee has only four members, but is monitoring the attendance of commissioners for the committees and general meetings. The committee will report to the Executive Board any commissioner who has excessive absenteeism. The committee is also waiting for responses from the supervisorial districts that have vacancies.

**10. DISTRICT LEAD COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

President Weintraub asked the District Lead Commissioners to give their reports.

- 10.1 District 1

Commissioner David Siegrist announced that the District 1 office has stated that they have started reviewing applicants to fill the vacancies.

- 10.2 District 2

Commissioner Lavada Theus stated that they will be meeting with the office of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas on April 22, 2011 at the Hall of Administration. She is requesting that commissioners from District 2 get a list of questions and concerns ready.

- 10.3 District 3

Commissioner Sol Fingold stated that he left a message with the office of Supervisor Yaroslavsky to schedule a meeting.

- 10.4 District 4

Commissioner Irene Griffith stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> District commissioners met with Deputy Nick Ippolito on February 28, 2011. She also stated that they met with Supervisor Knabe on March 9, 2011. Commissioner Griffith stated that one of the issues that they discussed with Supervisor Knabe involved transportation.

- 10.5 District 5

Commissioner Barbara Sinclair stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> District commissioners will be meeting with Deputy Helen Berberian on Friday, April 22, 2011. She also stated an agenda will need to be created and is requesting commissioners to assist in developing the topics of discussion.

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Sol Fingold requested that the transcripts of the '60 Minutes' episode be shared with the commission

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday, April 04, 2011**

Commissioner Marvin Schachter announced that there will be a Pasadena Senior Conference on April 21, 2011.

**13. INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Natalie Ambrose announced that the poppy fields in the Antelope Valley will be blossoming in three weeks. Commissioner David Siegrist announced that people can make a donation to the California Senior Legislature by using code 402 while filing their state taxes.

**14. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments given.

**15. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2011

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m. in memory of the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami and in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**APPROVED AND FILED: MAY 02, 2011**